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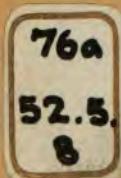


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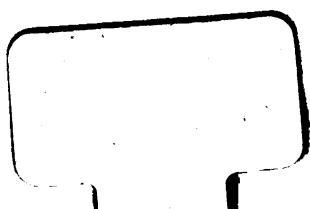
**Z a i m e s**

**Crimes of Bulgaria and Macedonia**

**1914**



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# *The Crimes of Bulgaria in Macedonia*

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An authentic document, based on facts and records,  
issued by the Universities of Athens in the  
interests of truth and transmitted to  
the universities of the world.

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Washington  
Reprinted from the original Greek  
1914

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## **FOREWORD**

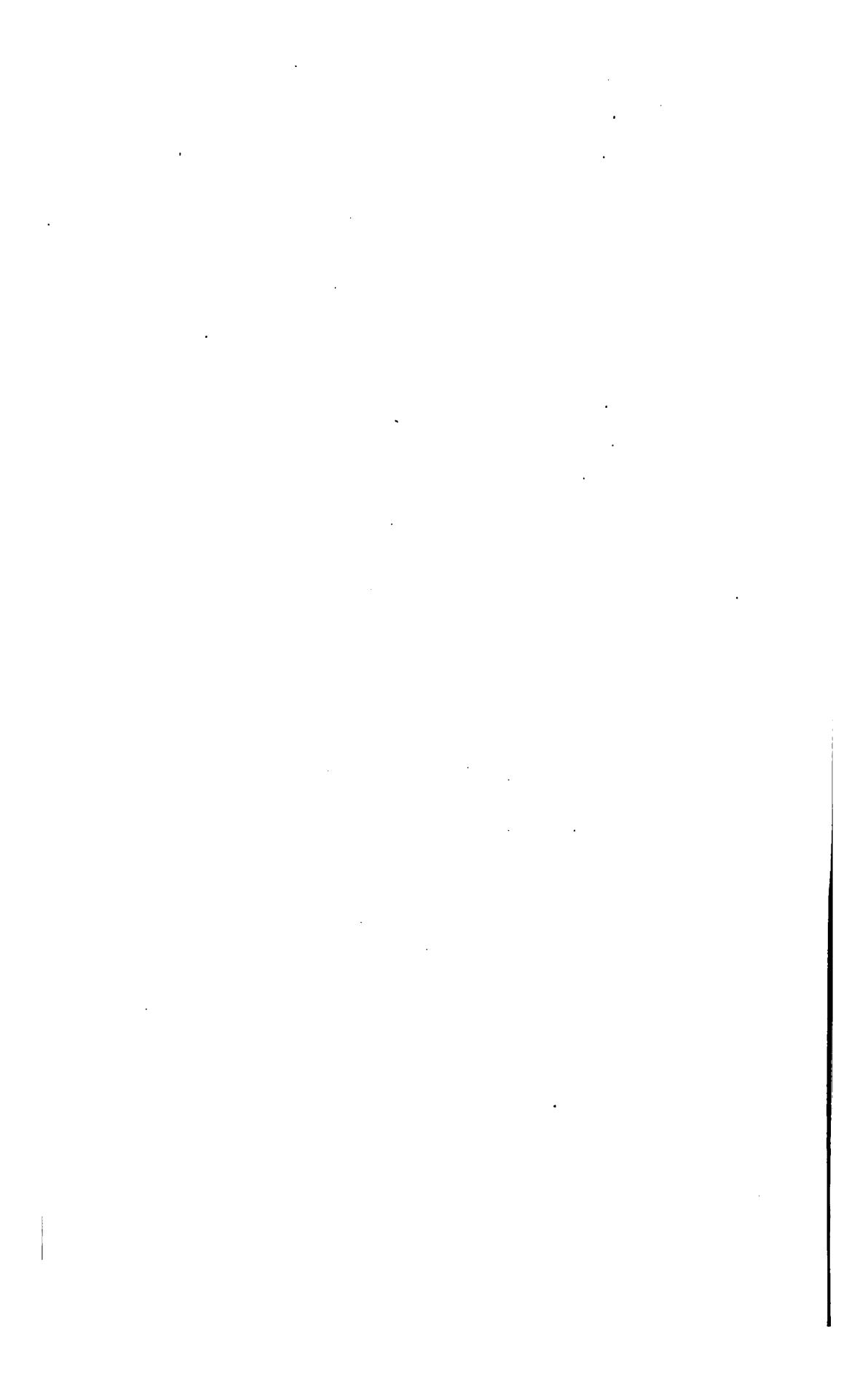
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This is a story of rapine and death. It is a history of crimes committed under the mask of civilized warfare, of outrages perpetrated under the guise of military necessity, of murdered children and outraged women sent to their deaths amid scenes of cruelty and torture such as are almost beyond credulity in this twentieth century.

The offenders were Bulgarians wearing the uniforms and the epaulets of their national army. The victims were Greeks, Mohammedans and any individuals who incited the wrath or stirred the cupidity of the merciless invaders.

Every instance cited in this document is indisputable. Names, facts and dates are given with such frequency and with such authority that not one chapter in this astounding history can be denied. It is, simply and frankly, the true narrative of the monstrous criminology of men who fought as savages, beyond the pale of civilized laws. All the facts come from officials and private individuals impartial in their statements, unbiased by their nationality and uninfluenced by the thought of either fear or favor. They were consuls of foreign governments, correspondents for the greatest newspapers of the world, and, in at least one instance, an officer in the Bulgarian army itself.

The Universities of Athens, actuated by a love of truth and desirous of awaking the consciousness of civilization to the enormity of the Bulgarian atrocities, have issued and transmitted this authentic document to the universities and journalists of the world.



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

MY DEAR SIR AND COLLEAGUE:

Three weeks ago, in conformity to a joint resolution of the two Universities of Athens, we called your attention by cable to the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians in Macedonia, and announced to you that we should have the honor, at a later date, of forwarding to you a report relative thereto.

If the report was not sent to you at an earlier date, it was due to the fact that the list of the frightful crimes that were to be related, was daily becoming longer by other acts surpassing in horror those previously committed.

Unfortunately the list has not yet been closed. The atrocities that will be enumerated below will, however, suffice to enlighten you as to the situation and to place the responsibilities.

The great powers were shocked by such horrors. They commissioned their consuls, and appointed special committees to make investigations on the spot. Their reports have not yet been all made public, and some have not been completed. We quote those that have been published. The rest not being available, we have based this statement on the official reports of His Hellenic Majesty and of his staff, on the testimony of foreign diplomatic and ecclesiastical persons, and on that of the special representatives of the principal foreign newspapers that were present.

We regret to say that these representatives were not so numerous at the beginning of the war as we would have wished. We have preferred, however, to repeat the testimony of the same persons, rather than to quote the statements of the regular correspondents of those papers, who, residing in Greece, might be suspected of pro-Hellenic sympathies.

Desiring to restrict ourselves to a report purely objective, we have discarded every personal opinion and confined our statement to the documentary evidence which we have selected after the closest examination, and which, it can be readily ascertained, emanates from authorities whose veracity cannot be questioned, and as far as it was possible foreign authorities.

## CHAPTER II

### DISPATCHES OF KING CONSTANTINE

The impression which the dispatch sent by King Constantine to his government on July 12, 1913, created throughout official circles and the general public has not been forgotten.

After exposing the atrocities committed by the fleeing Bulgarian army, King Constantine was compelled to add:

"Protest in my name to the representatives of the civilized powers against the acts of these monsters in human form. Protest also to the entire civilized world and say that, to my great regret, I shall be compelled to proceed to reprisals, in order to inspire the perpetrators with a salutary fear, and make them reflect before committing outrages of this sort.

The Bulgarians have surpassed all the horrors of barbaric times, and have proved that they no longer have a right to be reckoned among civilized people."

A few days later the *New York Times* asked His Majesty's opinion on the atrocities committed, and the King caused the following reply to be sent:

"Without going over the motives which have led Greece, Servia and Montenegro to repulse by force of arms the unexpected but well-prepared attacks of the Bulgarians on their allies of yesterday, which attacks have dictated to the allied governments their actual attitude, the atrocities committed every day by the Bulgarian armies and the outrages, long concealed, committed by the Bulgarians on the Turkish and Greek peoples since the first days of the Balkan war, impose on the allies an energetic attitude and the obligation to exact and to obtain for the future all necessary guarantees.

As the Greek army advances crimes of unthinkable cruelty are discovered. The Bulgarian authorities have silenced the voice of thousands of innocents who perished under horrors such as human history has never before recorded. There is not a village which has been occupied by the Bulgarians that has not had its men, women and children massacred, its young women outraged, its houses robbed and burned.

At the first invasion of Demir-Hissar, last October, the Bulgarians massacred all the men of the village of Petrovo, and, after having outraged women and young girls, locked them in the mosque and set fire to it. They played on the bagpipes while the victims were dying.

At Petrich, they made the wives and daughters of the victims dance before the bodies of the Mussulmans. At Doiran many thousands of Mussulmans were slaughtered and all their goods were plundered. At Nevrokop it was the same. At Meleniko, Drama, Serres, Dedé-Agatch, Strumnitza—everywhere the Bulgarian has passed—one sees only blood, dishonor and ruin.

To the tortures endured yesterday by the Mussulmans come now those of the Christians. Even before the new war began the Bulgarians were oppressing all the Greek population of the territories occupied by them, and at the time of their sudden attack at Pangheon, they did not hesitate to quench their thirst for blood on the inoffensive Greek villagers.

After their first defeats the Bulgarians turned upon the Greek population with unspeakable acts. By order of the officers hundreds of men, women and children were horribly mutilated, their houses were burned, and their goods were stolen.

At Doiran the Greek Bishop and thirty notables were dragged away.<sup>1</sup>

At Kavala the Archbishop and twenty-eight Greek notables were forcibly taken away by the Bulgarians before they abandoned the village.

At Pravi the Bishop and more notables had the same fate.

At Demir-Hissar the Bishop and three priests, with many notables and some women, were tortured and put to death.

Serres, a flourishing and rich city, was almost completely destroyed by fire. The vice-consuls of Austria and Italy tried officially in vain to protect their consulates. The Bulgarians did not even respect the persons of the consuls, but carried them to the mountains and only released them on the payment of heavy ransoms.

The national flags of foreign countries were raised on European and American buildings, but had no effect. On the contrary, the Bulgars concentrated their fire on the foreign houses because they knew that these houses sheltered numerous refugees. They cannonaded the city. The defenseless citizens

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<sup>1</sup>The Bishop of Doiran was forcibly taken away by the Bulgarians together with a number of other notables, and sent under guard to Sofia amidst the jeers and hoots of the Bulgarian soldiers and the inhabitants of the Bulgarian cities and villages through which he was carried. From Sofia he was sent, always under guard, to Mesdra covering the distance that separated the two cities mostly on foot. From this latter city he was taken to the deserted and secluded village of Etrepol, where according to his guards he was to be executed.

The Roumanian army, however, which was marching through Bulgarian territory, reached the village of Etrepol where the Bishop was imprisoned, and saved him from further suffering and certain death. He was immediately released and sent to Bucharest in safety. Later His Holiness returned to his See.

abandoned all their possessions, and in many cases their infirm relatives, to flee from the rain of shot which pitilessly pursued them.

The great warehouses of the American Tobacco Company were burned, causing in all a loss of more than one million dollars. The managers, Messrs Harrington and Moore, escaped to Salonica during the conflagration.

Bombs and shells raked the city, wiped out thousands of families, and left hundreds of victims.

The Bulgarians cried "Hurrah" at the sight of the destruction they wrought, and took away with them all that they could carry.

Banks, business houses and stores, and all the residences were sacked. Neither the many churches, the mosques, the synagogues, nor the hospitals were spared. Before the destruction of the city the distinguished Greek residents were massacred in cold blood.

The scenes in the country are even more shocking. Everywhere are the mutilated bodies of peaceful peasants, everywhere are ashes and ruins where were joyous villages—a poignant desolation.

Ordinary massacres and outrages on women no longer satisfy the Bulgarians, and they have invented refinements of cruelty which the imagination refuses to comprehend. Girls are outraged before their parents, wives before their husbands, young men and old men are mutilated. Before the work is done their limbs are broken, their eyes are torn from the sockets. They disembowel one, burn another, cut off the noses and ears of others. At first it seemed that these crimes had been committed by comitadjis or irregulars, but investigation has unmistakably shown that all was done by regular soldiers under the orders of their chiefs.

The Bulgarian authorities prepared everything. A Bulgarian Captain, Dimitri Botsanoff Angnet, was seen presiding at the massacres of Demir-Hissar. Elsewhere there were officers of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Regiments.

It is unbelievable that a civilized people could be so primitive as to commit such monstrosities, and one shudders to think of what may happen in the future to the Mussulman and Greek populations that may remain under Bulgarian domination."

### CHAPTER III

#### PERIOD PRIOR TO THE HOSTILITIES

Desirous of confining this report to the incidents of the last four weeks, we shall not dwell on the sufferings of the Greek, Turkish and Jewish populations during the past eight months.

We shall be content, however, to quote the words of Mr. René Puaux, representative of the Paris *Temps*, who was with the Bulgarians in the campaign of Thrace, regarding the general massacres, and for the following weeks immediately preceding the war, the protest of all the foreign newspaper correspondents in Salonica.

Here is what the author of "Sofia to Chataldja" wrote to his paper on July 15, 1913:

"The Bulgarian army, through its conduct, has placed itself beyond the pale of civilized laws. It has massacred everywhere the civil populations.

From a report which I held, it appeared that its victims in Macedonia and Thrace were from 220,000 to 250,000.<sup>1</sup> It seems almost incredible, yet I only give these figures, because they were furnished to me in corroboration by another foreign very reliable personality, who recently returned from Constantinople.

A Bulgarian officer whose name I am not at liberty to disclose, confessed to me that the order to exterminate the women and children was a formal one, and was issued in order to definitely wipe out any possibility of subsequent claims of property in the territory captured by the Bulgarians."

The joint protest of the foreign correspondents addressed to the President of the "*Ligue pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme*," reads as follows:

"It appears to us advisable at a moment when the conflict among the Balkan powers has reached the present acute stage and war seems to be inevitable, that Europe be exactly informed of the conduct of the different allies, that the responsibilities be well fixed, and that the whole truth about certain acts particularly odious be given. The '*Ligue pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme*,' cannot remain unmoved in the face of the outrages committed by the Bulgarians in the regions under their occupation. At the outbreak of the war the press of Europe kept almost systematically silent regarding the reported horrors, but reports coming in every day both from the Greek

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<sup>1</sup>Mr. L. Magrini gives the same figures after a careful investigation of several months. (See *Milan Secolo*, July 18, 1913.) These figures are also confirmed by Captain Trappman who, after an investigation on the spot places the number of persons massacred in the two districts of Serres and Demir-Hissar alone at 50,000. (See the London *Daily Telegraph*, July 21, 1913.)

N. B. The above figures do not include the victims of the recent massacres.

and Mohammedan populations, contain the most horrible details concerning the treatment inflicted upon them by the Bulgarians.

Thousands of refugees arriving here daily are confirming these reports. We are, therefore, convinced, Mr. President, that it would be to the interest of justice and humanity that an impartial investigation be made at once, in order that the world may know the whole truth regarding these acts, which are a shame and a disgrace in this twentieth century.

We hope, Mr. President, that you will use your great authority and the great influence of the league to call the attention of Europe to these acts, and help to create a spirit of protest which to us appears to be necessary."

Signed. CRAWFORD PRICE,  
*of the London Times,*

EMIL THOMAS,  
*of the Paris Temps,*

P. TIANO,  
*of the Paris Journal,*

LUCIANO MAGRINI,  
*of the Milan Secolo,*

P. DONALDSON,  
*of the Reuter Agency,*

G. TURBE,  
*of the Havas Agency,*

CAPT. T. A. TRAPPMAN,  
*of the London Daily Telegraph,*

A. GROHMANN,  
*of the "Franfurter Zeitung"  
and the "Neue Freie Presse" of  
Vienna,*

M. BESSANTCHI,  
*of the Vienna Zeit.*

Although we have been compelled to make this statement longer than intended, we are, nevertheless, unable to give a full account of the terrible atrocities committed by the Bulgarians, even if we were to confine this report to the incidents of the last four weeks. The list of the villages that were set on fire and pillaged, the number of persons that were killed, those whose properties have been confiscated, and those who were outraged in their honor, is too long to recount.

We will first draw your attention to the fate which met the very few Greek prisoners that fell into the hands of the Bulgarians,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>We refer to the fate of the nine Greek evzones who were taken prisoners at Kallinovon the first day of the war. They were all tortured first and then mercilessly butchered.

and the terrible ordeal of Lieutenant Marcandonakis.<sup>1</sup> We will then enumerate the events that occurred in the most important centers which will be easier for foreigners to verify.

To facilitate this, we shall divide the present work into three parts corresponding to the three principal districts where the sanguinary events took place.

- 1—The Districts of Gevgheli and Doiran;
- 2—The other Districts west of the river Strymon, and,
- 3—The provinces of Serres and Drama.

We must at first remind you, however, that the Servian army and population in Northern Thrace have likewise suffered greatly, and that the Servian government repeatedly drew the attention of the civilized world to those atrocities, some of which were verified by the Russian and French consuls at Uskub.

An international commission comprising among its members Dr. Albert Perron of Paris, Dr. Ludwig Schlieb of Berlin, and Dr. Sieber Moller of the Royal Norwegian Navy, made an investigation in the Servian district of Knagevatz, which the Bulgarians occupied for a few days.

The report of that commission was published on July 16, 1913, and contains a long series of horrible misdeeds. Murders, conflagrations, rapines and outrages on women are cited. It gives the names of the victims and certifies that these crimes were committed by the regular Bulgarian army.

We shall not waste any time on the reports that emanated from officious sources in Sofia and from certain correspondents residing in the Bulgarian capital, through which an attempt was at first made to deny the barbarities committed by the Bulgars in Macedonia, and subsequently, when the impudence of this assertion was brought to light, to cause the impression that the Bulgarians were not the only ones that were given to massacre, pillage and incendiарism.

In order to trample into the dust such calumnies, it will suffice to recite simply that throughout the entire territory occupied by the

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<sup>1</sup>Sub-lieutenant Marcandonakis, who was mortally wounded during the assault of Saraghiol, had his eyes gouged out and his body was frightfully mutilated. Other Greek soldiers that were wounded in the same battle, were, according to an eye witness "cowardly butchered." (See article by J. Leune in the Paris *L'Illustration*, July 26, 1913.)

At Radovichta a Servian officer had his nose and lips cut and his eyes torn out of the sockets by the Bulgarians. His comrades found him still living.

Greek armies there was a large number of foreigners, many of them subjects of nations which have actively shown their sympathy for Bulgaria; that among the special correspondents, whose names we cite, a number of them represented newspapers that have judged Greek politics without indulgence. Yet not one foreign subject and not one newspaper correspondent could be found to assert that the Greek army has committed one single act of those of which the dispatches from Sofia speak.

These reports, therefore, can deceive only those who wish to be deceived.

Here is the text of a note communicated to the great powers by the representatives of Greece on July 19, 1913:

"His Hellenic Majesty has taken cognizance of a telegram addressed to the London *Evening News*, by which His Majesty King Ferdinand requested an international investigation on the atrocities committed in Macedonia by the Bulgarian army.

His Hellenic Majesty desires first to remark that he personally witnessed the acts which King Ferdinand denies without being on the spot and relying solely on the statements of his ministers.

In protesting to the whole of Europe against the Bulgarian horrors, and in denouncing the crimes which have been committed, by citing dates, places, and exact facts, King Constantine personally invited the entire civilized world to ascertain the acts of savagery which have forever placed Bulgaria beyond all civilization and human laws.

Greece asks that representatives of the civilized world be sent to investigate without delay. Because although the ruins of the cities of Serres, Nigrita, Doxato and of all the villages that were destroyed, although no battle took place in their proximity, will for a long time remain in their place as the living proof that the armies of King Ferdinand have passed that way, the bodies of thousands of Greeks that were slaughtered, mutilated and burned alive, and the frightful remains of old men, women and children that were massacred, cannot forever remain without burial.

As a first urgent measure the Hellenic government has requested that all the consuls-general residing in Salonica be ordered by their respective governments to visit at once the districts of Kilkis, Doiran, Strumnitz, Demir-Hissar, Meleniko and Nevrokop through which the Greek divisions have passed, to ascertain whether even a single Bulgarian has been mistreated by the Greek armies.

The inhabitants of all the Bulgarian villages in the afore-

said districts, their families and property are protected by the Greek army in the same degree as are the Greeks and their property.

A large number of Bulgarian peasants, believing that the Greek army was capable of imitating the conduct of their own, tried to follow the Bulgarian troops in their flight. They were soon, however, compelled to give up, as the Bulgarians were fleeing too fast, and they attempted to regain their homes.

All these unfortunate persons are cared for by our military authorities. Rations are regularly distributed to them exactly as to the Greek and Turkish populations.

The consuls-general will no doubt notice this to be a fact. The districts of Gevgeli, Doiran, Nigrita, Serres, Demir-Hissar, Zichna and Drama, must then be visited by them to ascertain that the accusations we have formulated against the Bulgarian armies were far below the truth.

The special correspondents of the Paris *Temps*, the London *Times*, the Milan *Secolo*, the *Figaro*, the London *Daily Telegraph*, the *Tribuna* of Rome, the *Pall-Mall Gazette*, the *Corriere della Serra*, etc., are already on the spot. Others are arriving daily. All these authorized witnesses are in a position to see, and could relate what they saw.

The consuls-general of Austria-Hungary and Italy in Salonica, who visited Serres recently, stated to His Majesty the King that the atrocities committed there by the Bulgarians exceeded in horror those that were at first reported.

They learned the names of the Bulgarian officers who took an active part."

## CHAPTER IV

### NIGRITA AND GEVGHELI

#### DISTRICTS OCCUPIED BY THE BULGARIANS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR

It is well known that the present war was caused by the Bulgarians, who, bent upon taking Salonica by surprise, broke the neutral zone and occupied Nigrita, the key to the Salonica-Serres route on one side, and Gevgeli, the junction point of the Greco-Servian forces on the other.

This is how the French Academician, Mr. Francis Charmes, describes the Bulgarian action in the "*Revue des deux Mondes*" of July 15, 1913, page 470:

"We have seen a number of flagrant violations of the law of nations. None can equal, however, the treacherous attack

made against the Servians and the Greeks. The coup was not spontaneous. Of this we have no doubt. It was carefully planned and audaciously carried out \* \* \*. The evident purpose of the Bulgarian attack was to separate the Servian and Greek armies exactly on the spot where later they joined forces."

Although proper precautions were taken, the scheme was not as successful as the Bulgarians anticipated. They were compelled in three days to evacuate Nigrita and Gevgeli. Years, however, will elapse before the traces left by them during their short stay can disappear.

Here is how, Mr. de Jessen, the well known Danish publicist and correspondent of the Paris *L'Illustration* and *Temps*,<sup>1</sup> describes the scene in Nigrita the day following the evacuation of that town by the Bulgarians:

"Thursday evening a telegram from King Constantine announced to the authorities in Salonica, that the Greek armies advancing through the valley of Strouma in a north-north-easterly direction, found the city of Nigrita which had a population of 7,000, along with several other villages that were pillaged and burnt, destroyed by fire, and its population including old men, women and children massacred.

The King requested that Mr. Albert Trappman of the London *Daily Telegraph* and myself, start at once for Nigrita to personally verify these acts.

We left at dawn the following morning on horseback, and covered the distance of more than one hundred miles in two days, cutting through a region overrun by Bulgarian comitadjis who kept the population of certain sections so frightened that they did not dare to leave their homes and go to the fields.

At about one o'clock in the afternoon we discerned at last the outlines of the unfortunate city which we hastened to reach as quickly as our tired horses would allow. Wednesday last it stood intact under its plane and mulberry trees vibrating with a life of industry. To-day it is but a pyre whose corpses cover the frightful ruins. Out of the 1,450 houses we found

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<sup>1</sup>See the Paris *Temps* of July 11, 1913. Mr. de Jessen forwarded numerous photographs to *L'Illustration*. The negatives, however, were unfortunately received in Paris in a damaged condition. In this connection *L'Illustration* wrote on July 19, 1913: "a precious and irrefutable evidence has disappeared." Several photographs of the city of Nigrita in ruins appeared in the *Illustrated London News* July 27, 1913. Numerous photographs were taken of all the Macedonian centers that have suffered in the hands of the Bulgarians. A collection is now being prepared of this unexceptionable evidence of Bulgarian atrocities.

only 49 standing and among those the church, whose bells were silenced after a night of fire and blood. One walking through the streets treads on stones blackened and still hot from the conflagration. The air was charged with heavy odors of human and animal flesh half burnt. The leaves of the vines and trees in the courtyards were shriveled up and blackened. A grayish dust raised by the wind disturbed the waters of the stream which traversed the mass of ruins where three days ago stood the city of Nigrita.

Among the smouldering débris very few bodies were to be seen. When the Greek army entered the place, most of the bodies were hastily buried on account of the terrible heat, but a number of them still remained unburied.

Old men in pools of blood on whom the flies were swarming; young men with faces distorted and hands twisted in a last gesture of agony and despair. The mayor and the military officer estimated that 470 people were burned alive. Besides these victims, others were suffering from moral injuries. Women were outraged before their children; girls ravished before their parents; children were slaughtered and old men roughly treated. We have seen and heard enough to understand that this city, so flourishing three days ago, became the city of woe, *la città dolente*, as Dante says, of whom one naturally thinks before these visions of horror."

Captain Trappman in a communication dated July 10, 1913, wrote to his paper, the London *Daily Telegraph*, in part as follows:

"I will never forget what I saw in Nigrita, a Greek city of 8,000 inhabitants and about 1,500 houses. To-day it is a heap of smoking débris from which comes the odor of burned human flesh. From a distance the roofs of the remaining forty-nine houses appeared to be red, owing to the contrast with the blackened ruins. Search parties were working here and there, trying to locate the bodies of those who perished. Four hundred and seventy were burned alive or killed by the Bulgarians in the city alone. King Constantine invited us to continue our investigations in the other towns of this district, where an entire regiment is detailed in the work of disposing of the bodies of the murdered peasants. In Nigrita the Bulgarians massacred more than 1,500 Greeks, and outraged many women. Their condition is pitiable. All the houses were sacked. One can hardly find in the history of war a record of greater savagery than that displayed by the Bulgars in the District of Nigrita."

If the Gevgheli district was not made the theater of those horrible scenes that attract the foreign correspondent, it has had its

share of the atrocities. Almost the entire Greek population of the town bearing the same name escaped from the Bulgarians and took refuge in Goumentsa. Among the notables that remained behind, six were murdered, one a woman, and eight others including the Bishop's Vicar were arrested and their lives saved only by a miracle.<sup>1</sup>

At Bogdantsa seven notables, including the priest Papastamataki, were murdered on the spot. Seventeen others were slaughtered at Doiran where they were taken. Similar crimes were committed in the other Greek sections of the district, at Negotsi, Selovon, Moine, etc. Stoyakovon was set on fire and totally destroyed and most of its population massacred.<sup>2</sup>

## CHAPTER V

### ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON THE WESTERN BANK OF THE RIVER STRYMON

#### THE DISTRICT OF KILKIS

Beaten and fleeing, the Bulgarian army adopted the system of setting on fire all the cities and villages which it was compelled to abandon, in order to deprive the Greek army of provisions and to retard its progress. According to an expression used by an eye witness, Mr. Lucien Magrini, the Bulgars placed between themselves and the Greeks a "zone of fire." (See the Milan *Secolo* July 7, 1913.) This method was followed throughout the entire campaign. Another witness, Mr. George Bourdon, whose testimony we regret that we cannot use as often as we would have wished, because the present work was almost completed when his correspondence began to appear in the Paris *Figaro*, made the same remark three weeks later and in the following terms:

A smoke rising from afar is a sign that the Bulgarians are retreating. Their retreat is always marked by fire." (See *Figaro*, July 25, 1913).

The special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* cabled to his paper on July 17, 1913, as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>For the names of the victims see the official report of the Greek army staff dated July 18, 1913.

<sup>2</sup>For full details see the official report above cited.

"I have been advancing the last 48 hours as fast as my horse could carry me. Everywhere the Bulgarians in full retreat are burning the villages."

These tactics were, however, more strictly followed at the beginning of the hostilities, and it may be said that from Salonica to Doiran, and from Salonica to Serres, there is not one single village that was not burned by the Bulgarians. When the Greeks entered the town of Kilkis, which had a population of 5,000, only the residence of the governor and a French convent where a large number of women and children sought refuge was left standing.

The superior of the convent, Father Gustave Michel, made certain statements regarding the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians worthy to be preserved. They were made the object of interpellation in the House of Commons. Here is what he said:

"Most shocking crimes have been perpetrated around Kilkis by the Bulgarians, the majority of which I have seen with my own eyes. In the village of Kurkut a band of Bulgarians, headed by a man named Dontchieff, locked all the male population of the place in the mosque, and then compelled the women to surround it and witness the frightful spectacle. First they attempted to blow up the mosque by throwing bombs against its walls which, however, failed to explode. Then they set the place on fire and burned alive more than 700 men. Those who tried to escape were shot down as they ran. I saw in the streets of Kurkut the calcined human remains. I offered assistance to some starving women and was accused by a Bulgarian soldier of collecting human heads to send as curiosities to France.

At Plantza the same band of marauders carried their atrocious work to still greater lengths. They first drove the male inhabitants into the mosque, which they burned, compelling as before the women to witness the horrible spectacle, and immediately after stacked the women together and burned them alive in the public square.

In Rainovo men and women were slain and the bodies thrown into the wells.

At Kilkis the Bulgarian inhabitants destroyed the mosque and massacred their fellow-townsmen of the Moslem faith.

On several occasions I have held conversations with Bulgarian "comitadjis." With unbelievable callousness they boasted of the atrocities they have committed. Among them I was surprised to find merchants of Sofia, students from the Bulgarian Universities, even professional men. One man, a

student of literature, assured me that he had killed with his own hand not less than one hundred and forty Greeks.

I was called to the bedside of a dying man. He had been beaten to death for resisting a 'comitadji' who had seized upon his daughter. I applied to the French consul at Salonica begging him to exert his power to put an end to these massacres."

Father Michel's statement was corroborated by Mr. Magrini, correspondent of the Milan *Secolo*, by the Catholic sisters at Kilkis, and by the three missionaries of the Evangelical Churches in Salonica whose testimony is very valuable as it covers not only the atrocities committed at Kilkis, but at Doiran, Strumnitz, Serres, etc.

Their protest cabled to the press of Europe and America on July 23, 1913, reads as follows:

"After their first defeat the Bulgarians began, in revenge, a series of most horrible crimes against the Greek noncombatants, who were entirely unprotected. Defeated at Nigrita by the Greek army, they turned in fury to the burning and pillaging of the towns along the line of their retreat and the massacre of the defenceless peasants. In Nigrita over seven hundred persons were slaughtered, many of the victims being women and children. The atrocity was perpetrated by orders of the Bulgarian army officers.

Two days before the evacuation of Doiran the Bulgarians called a counsel, sending a summons to the Greek Bishop and thirty of the foremost citizens to attend. They were all detained by the Bulgarian authorities and for many days nothing further was learned of their fate. Later the mutilated bodies of the unfortunate hostages were found. Not one had been spared.<sup>1</sup>

In Strumnitz the Bulgarians paused in their flight long enough to kill three Greek peasants, a woman and sixteen Mohammedans. They sacked the stores and threatened a general massacre. Fortunately the Greek Bishop was able to prevent further butchery by declaring that he would not be responsible for the lives of the Bulgarian citizens of the town should the Greek troops see the shambles.

At Demir-Hissar the destruction of life and property was fiendish. A hundred and four men and women were killed, among them a Bishop and a priest. The Bulgarians resorted to the most revolting forms of torture. The body of the

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<sup>1</sup>The Bishop of Doiran was found imprisoned in Etrepol, a deserted and secluded village in Bulgaria, and was released by the Roumanian army.

Bishop was found horribly mutilated, his beard and hair torn from his head. Many of the victims were frightfully dismembered and all of the corpses showed unmistakable signs of hideous torture. The women and young girls were delivered over to the soldiery.

It was at Serres, however, that Bulgarian savagery reached its height. After its evacuation a detachment was sent back to bombard the town. The inhabitants fled panic-stricken. A party of Bulgarian officers and soldiers, assisted by the local Bulgarian authorities and a band of 'irregulars,' entered and looted the city, subsequently setting fire to the houses, which they drenched with petroleum. The fleeing inhabitants were shelled by the artillery. In the town itself nothing was spared. The Austrian consul, together with the women and children who had sought refuge in the Consulate, were dragged to the mountains. The Italian consulate also suffered destruction. The flags of foreign powers were ignored. The American flag, flying over the stores of the American Tobacco Company, availed nothing. The managers escaped to Salonica, reporting a loss of nearly a million dollars. Every man, woman and child caught in the streets or hiding within the looted houses was mercilessly slain. About four thousand houses, a thousand stores, eighteen mosques and churches, all the schools, synagogues and hospitals are crumbling ruins to-day. The loss exceeds \$3,000,000. Twenty thousand people are destitute.

In the town of Doxato, with a population of about three thousand, two thousand five hundred were killed and the village reduced to ashes. The farms all over the district are wiped out and no one can determine the number of the murdered peasants. The Bulgarian army has left behind it a trail of utter devastation and misery.

Signed. REV. M. BRUNAU,  
*of the German Evangelical Mission,*  
 REV. P. TOEKHUVANIAN,  
*of the Armenian Evangelical Mission,*  
 REV. A. MITSOPoulos,  
*of the Greek Evangelical Mission.*

#### DOIRAN AND STRUMNITZA

The startling advance of the Greek army from Kilkis to Strumnitza prevented the fleeing and closely pursued Bulgarians from engaging in any systematic destruction of property. Persons, however, were attacked, and we may note among other crimes the forcible abduction and disappearance of the Bishop of Doiran and twenty-seven other prominent citizens of that city.

The entrance of King Constantine and his army into the city of Doiran was marked by the following characteristic incident:

"The Mufti (an official expounder of Mohammedan law), says the official report under date of July 10, 1913, greeted the King in the name of the Mussulman community, and offered to him as a sign of homage according to Turkish custom a pot of basil. He then asked the King's protection for the 600 victims of Doiran, women and children, whose husbands and fathers were slain last October by the Bulgarians. The Mufti then related that all the mosques except one, which was used as a church, were burned to the ground by the Bulgarians, and he asked that the remaining one be returned to his people.

The King at once gave orders that food be regularly distributed to the widows and the orphans at the expense of the Greek government, and that the mosque be returned to its original owners. The Mufti stated that there were more than 5,000 widows and orphans in the neighborhood who needed protection and assistance. In fact the Turkish population in the surrounding country was almost completely exterminated by the Bulgarians. One meets everywhere victims whose property has been destroyed and who lost their sole support.

The Greek government is confronted to-day with the necessity of giving relief to these unfortunate Mussulmans whose destitution and distress the Bulgarians have wrought. In certain Turkish villages near Doiran, the Bulgarians forcibly 'converted' the Mussulman population and assigned them priests who afterwards fled with the Bulgarian troops.<sup>1</sup>

If Strumnitza suffered less than Doiran, it was due to the courage of its Archbishop whose manly attitude nearly cost him his life.

Here is how the correspondent of the Paris *Temps* at Salonica (see issue of July 14) describes what occurred in Strumnitza :

"Before evacuating the city, the Bulgarian soldiers sacked several Greek and Turkish houses. They killed the priest Constantine and wounded his wife. They slew another Greek on his way from Gevgeli and massacred sixteen Turks including children. They placed under arrest a number of notable citizens with the intention of murdering them, and released them only when the Greek Bishop declared that he would not be responsible for the lives of the Bulgarian citizens of the town and the surrounding country should the Greek troops see the shambles.

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<sup>1</sup>The Turkish community of Doiran has submitted a long mémoire describing in all its details the outrages committed by the Bulgarians in the district of Doiran. This report was authenticated by the Bulgarian priests Telatinof, Nakof and Yanoff, who voluntarily vouched for the statements of the victims.

The mémoire was published in a large number of European newspapers, notably the Paris *Temps*.

Two were, however, killed in the interim, and, alleging an epidemic, the Bulgarians tried to lock the Bishop in a pavilion where the cholera victims were kept. He managed to escape during the night to a nearby village. The Greek army occupied the city on Wednesday at seven in the evening."

## CHAPTER VI

### THE PILLAGE AND BURNING OF SERRES

#### THE PROVINCE OF SERRES AND DRAMA

However terrible were the atrocities committed on the left bank of the river Strymon, they cannot be compared, in the extent of destruction, with those committed by the Bulgars on the right bank of said river. The difference is due to two reasons: First, in that the province of Serres is richer than those of Doiran and Kilkis, and, second, because the bridges spanning the river Strymon were all destroyed and the Greek armies could not arrive in time to prevent the catastrophe.

Unable to give a full list of the heinous crimes committed, as all the villages in the valley of Serres were burned; we will confine this account as we have done up to now to the principal centers.

#### THE BURNING AND PLUNDER OF SERRES

Serres is one of the very few cities in the interior of Macedonia where foreign consular authorities are located. Moreover, it was visited by the consuls-general of Austria and Italy at Salonica. We have, therefore, in our possession foreign official documents, and, faithful to our method, we shall quote them in preference to the more detailed reports of the Greek authorities.

The text of the official dispatch sent by the Austro-Hungarian consul to his government, as per translation forwarded to the Paris *Temps*<sup>1</sup> by its Vienna correspondent, reads as follows:

"To-day I proceeded to Serres in company with my Italian colleague. The three-fourths of the city formerly so rich and flourishing is now a mass of smouldering ruins. The Bulgarians had already abandoned Serres on July 5. On the 11th troops and comitadjis led by officers and officials made their appearance. They bombarded the defenceless town with four guns, pillaged from top to bottom and burned its finest quar-

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<sup>1</sup>See *Temps*, July 23, 1913.

ters, as well as several houses belonging to Austrian subjects and our consulate. The loss amounts to about 45,000,000 francs (about 9 million dollars).

Fifty notables were massacred, among them the Hungarian subject, Albert Biro. Several persons perished in the flames. The five new tobacco warehouses of the Austrian firm of Herzog & Co. were set on fire and they are still burning. The estimated loss is about 2,500,000 francs (about \$500,000).

Our flag was not respected. The vice-consul, Mr. Zlatko, who was holding the flag, was carried off to the mountain with 150 other persons who sought refuge in the consulate and was released only after paying a heavy ransom.

It is essential that help should be sent for the persons under our protection, who belong to the best and heretofore wealthiest Jewish families.

Please send without delay large sums for the purchase of food and raiment.

Drama has been occupied. At Doxato several hundred women and young girls were found to have been massacred by the Bulgarians.

One hundred and forty massacred persons were found at Demir-Hissar.

Twenty Greeks of Serres were first robbed and then put to death by the Bulgarians in the estate of Pierre Pantza.

The loss sustained by the Greeks of Serres exceeds 2,000,000 francs (about \$400,000). The losses of the Austrian tobacco firm of Herzog & Co., and the American Tobacco Co., are enormous."

Mr. Zlatko, the Austrian vice-consul at Serres, sent the following telegraphic report to the consul-general at Salonica:

"A Bulgarian detachment of cavalry and infantry bombarded the town of Serres on Friday morning. After a few shells fell in different directions, the infantry marched into the city, setting all the houses and stores on fire and massacring the inhabitants. Serres was almost totally destroyed. The number of victims is numerous. About 20,000 persons are without shelter. All the food, clothing and stores have been destroyed. The town faces a famine. The situation is desperate. Please send help.

On Friday toward noon, soldiers of the regular army attacked my house and drove me into the street with my family and a large number of persons who had fled from the massacre and the fire and had taken refuge with me. We were immediately led up to the mountain. All the women and children that accompanied me were threatened with death, and it

was only by paying large ransoms that we were released. I am safe and well, but my house was burnt. I am, with my family, without shelter or clothing. All our subjects who live here are in the same situation as myself.

The Greek army occupied the city on Friday evening. A police service was at once organized and order was maintained. Everything is quiet now."

The reports of the Italian authorities have not yet been made public. An idea may, however, be gained in advance of what they contain, by reading a long article which Mr. Magrini forwarded to his paper the Milan *Secolo* and published in that paper on July 18, 1913. Mr. Magrini interviewed not only the Italian vice-consul at Serres, but in company with the Italian consul-general at Salonica assisted in the investigation made by the latter, and reported the speech he made before leaving the destroyed city.

The main parts of Mr. Magrini's article, confirmed also by Mr. P. Larco in the *Corriere della Serra* July 17, 1913, which, as he himself formally declared was based on information obtained from the Italian consular authorities,<sup>1</sup> read as follows:

"The public is not aware, wrote Mr. Magrini, of the voluminous and detailed record of evidence collected by the foreign consuls at Salonica and kept secret, regarding the massacres of the Moslem population in Macedonia and Thrace by the Bulgarians.

From a personal investigation made, I am able to say that about 200,000 Turks, including defenceless men, women, old men and children, were put to death by the Bulgarians during the first few months of the Balkan war. The entire eastern part of Macedonia and Thrace, oppressed in an incredible manner, was plundered and terrorized. The silence kept by the great powers about the massacre of the Mussulman population, encouraged the Bulgarians to continue their work and led them to the present massacre and pillage of the Greek population. Europe can no longer doubt. Two of the great powers caused, on account of these horrible crimes, an investigation to be made by their consuls who came to the con-

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<sup>1</sup>The testimony of Mr. Münchhausen, professor of languages at Serres, must also be taken into consideration. Professor Münchhausen was among the Austrian subjects taken with the vice-consul to the mountains by the Bulgarians. His testimony was obtained by the special correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* and published in that paper on July 21, 1913. It confirms Mr. Magrini's statement and adds certain supplementary details. The dispatch sent to the *New York Herald* by its special correspondent on July 17, is also interesting.

clusion that the Greek version regarding these crimes, was much below the actual truth.

#### AN EVENTFUL WEEK

When it became known that the Italian consul-general, Mr. Macchioro Vivalba, and his Austrian colleague, Mr. Auguste Krel, were going to Serres, I thought that it was my duty to follow them. I assisted and participated with them in the examination of numerous witnesses, and I am therefore in a position to make known the result of the consular investigation from which it appears that the Bulgarian government planned the destruction of Serres beforehand, and is directly responsible for it.

We were able to reconstruct the eventful week through which the Macedonian city passed. On Friday, July 4, the Bulgarian advocate adviser of the Italian consul reported to him that the following order was received:

'If it appears that Serres is lost to the Bulgarians, let it be destroyed.'

On the evening of the same day General Ivanoff, who was beaten at Lahana, passed through the station of Serres on his way to Demir-Hissar. On Saturday, July 5, the stores and houses were sacked and seventeen notables were massacred; four other notables, among them the principal of the gymnasium, the director of the hospital and the manager of the Orient Bank, were led outside of the city and killed with bayonet thrusts. Thereafter General Voulkof, Governor of Macedonia, and all the Bulgarian functionaries, soldiers, and gendarmes left the city hurriedly. On Saturday and Monday the town was quiet in expectation of the arrival of the Greek army. The inhabitants, however, were arming themselves in order to repel a probable attack by the comitadjis. On Tuesday and Wednesday some skirmishes took place between a number of the inhabitants and groups of soldiers who tried to enter the town and set it on fire. On Thursday the inhabitants, foreseeing the catastrophe, dispatched messengers to Nigrita to demand help, but it was too late.

I questioned the Moslem Ahmed-Hafiz formerly attached to the Bulgarian police together with the Austrian consul-general. Here is his statement:

On Thursday evening the Bulgarian officer Monef called at my house and told me that the Bulgarians were going to burn Serres the following day. He invited me to join in the pillage and the burning with a band of Moslems. I refused. Then Monef asked me for petroleum; I replied that I had none.

On Thursday, during the night, four field guns were placed on the hill Dulti, which commands the city, and the following morning at eight o'clock the bombardment began and created a terrible panic. Later more than 500 infantry, several groups of cavalry, numbering ten each, and about 50 comitadjis entered the city armed with bombs, and the atrocities began. I recognized several officers among the soldiers, including Dr. Yankof, secretary to General Voulkof and government councilor, the late chief of police Karagiosof and Orpanief, chief of the gendarmerie of Serres. It looked like a well organized plan. The doors of the houses and stores were broken open with sticks tipped with iron, which the soldiers carried. The buildings were entered and pillaged. The booty was loaded on some hundred wagons, specially got together for this purpose. Then the houses were emptied, one by one, sprinkled with petroleum and other inflammable substances and set on fire. Using the least possible effort, in a row of three houses they would set on fire the one in the middle, relying on the violent wind which was blowing to complete the work of destruction. The soldiers fired on the people who attempted to save the burning houses, consulates, and foreign buildings.

#### THE ATTACK ON THE ITALIAN CONSULATE

In the quarter Kamenikia, twenty-eight persons, including the Hungarian subject, Albert Biro, were massacred. The Austrian vice-consul with the people who had sought refuge in the consulate were carried off to the mountain. His magnificent residence was sacked and then burned. All the buildings that were protected by foreign flags, were treated in the same manner. At the Orient Bank an attempt was made to open the safe by means of a bomb, but it failed, and the building was set on fire and destroyed.

The Italian consular agency, located in a well constructed building, surrounded by a vast garden, was miraculously saved from destruction. It is the only house saved in a whole square which was burnt down.

The Italian consular agent, Mr. Menahem Simantow, explained to us that at noon on Friday a number of infantry soldiers ordered him to open his house, where 600 persons, mainly women and children, had taken refuge. Mr. Simantow showed himself at a window, and the soldiers demanded 400 Turkish pounds, abouts \$200. Mr. Simantow, who could speak Bulgarian, persuaded them to be satisfied with only four pounds (about \$20.00) and to withdraw. The presence of a young Bulgarian, Mavrodief, says Mr. Simantow, saved the agency from catastrophe. However, it became necessary in the course of the day to buy off other soldiers with

fresh ransoms. The consulate, full of refugees, was surrounded by flames, and it was with difficulty that we managed to protect ourselves. The consul then continued his narrative in relation to the massacre of the Moslem element and the persecution which the entire population had to undergo since the occupation of the town by the Bulgarians. He gave us details unheard of before. The authorities seized upon the best articles: furniture, carpets, silverware and clothing. Everything was stolen and sent to Sofia. He related that when Czar Ferdinand visited Serres, the prefect asked him to loan a silver service on which, according to custom, bread and salt was to be offered to the Bulgarian Sovereign. The consul readily consented, but when the Czar departed, the service was not returned to him. He made repeated demands for it, but without avail. He then threatened to create a scandal and to have the Italian Legation at Sofia intervene for the return of the service. He finally succeeded in obtaining an indemnity which hardly amounted to one-fourth of the value of the stolen articles.

As Mr. Simantow is a wealthy merchant, the Bulgarian authorities obtained from his stores merchandise to the value of 50,000 francs (about \$10,000) and left with him worthless receipts in lieu of payment. Such receipts were to be found everywhere in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace; very often, especially when Greeks were concerned, the receipts contained instead of the value and nature of the merchandise received, insulting expressions in the Bulgarian language.

All storekeepers were also compelled to put up signs in the Bulgarian language, and even the Italian consular agent had to obey the order. In fact, he was fined because he failed to comply with it when first requested."

#### FOUR THOUSAND HOUSES DESTROYED

Mr. Magrini then publishes an interview he had with the Austrian vice-consul, whose statement we quoted above, and continues:

"In company with Mr. Vivalba and Consul Kral, I visited and inspected repeatedly all parts of the city. What an immense desolation! It is figured that more than four thousand houses have been destroyed. The consuls-general declared that they have never witnessed such a spectacle. Our views coincide. We are facing a resurrection of Tamerlan and Gengis Khan. The horror of the destruction is beyond all imagination. It is impossible to estimate the full damage. The losses alone of the three large tobacco companies, the Herzog Company and the two American companies, amount to \$2,000,000.

### THE PROMISES OF THE ITALIAN CONSUL

On July 14 Commander Mazarakis of the Greek army returned to the Mussulmans the great mosque which the Bulgarians confiscated and converted into an exarchistic church. The ceremony attending the restitution was very touching. The Mussulmans wept with joy and praised Greece for their deliverance. The Bishop and the orthodox clergy were present. The Italian consul-general, who was also present, made a speech and *declared that he would communicate to his government the nameless horrors of Bulgar barbarity verified by him*, and he added, that the manifestation of harmony and brotherly feeling existing between the Mussulmans and the Greeks was a happy omen for the resurrection of the city of Serres now restored to peace and order by the Greek authorities."

It may be observed that the Greeks and the Turks were not the only ones that suffered. The Jewish community in Serres also had a terrible experience. Here is the essential part of the report drawn up by the Jewish delegation from Salonica:<sup>1</sup>

"It is under the painful and melancholy impression that we have felt when visiting the still smouldering ruins of what once was the flourishing city of Serres that we are making this report. The city of Serres, with a population of about 30,000 people, composed of 16,000 Greeks, 12,000 Mussulmans and 1,300 Israelites, was until recently, notwithstanding the unfortunate Balkan war, full of life and relatively prosperous.

A vandal hand heavily laid upon it caused a deathly silence to succeed the beneficent hum and bustle of its commercial activities. Out of 6,000 houses in Serres, 4,000, the very best, were reduced to ashes. More than 4,000 shops were first pillaged and then burned. The disaster is enormous. All the inhabitants, without distinction, suffered more or less. Over one-half of the population is without food or shelter. Out of 200 Jewish families living in the city, 131 lost their real and personal properties, stock in trade, etc.; 112 saw their belongings completely destroyed, and among these 29 families lost also their houses. The shops of 32 others were burned. The material losses sustained by the Jewish population alone exceed 41,035 Turkish pounds (about \$205,000).

The community lost the synagogue, one school for the erection of which 50,000 francs (\$10,000) were expended, and two houses.

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<sup>1</sup>For the losses sustained by the Jewish community see the Paris *Temps* of July 21, 1913, the *Echo d'Athènes* of July 24, and the report of Mr. Schinas of the Salonica press bureau published in the *Liberté de Salonique* July 15, 1913.

The indirect losses of the Jewish merchants arising from moneys due them by non-Jewish business men who saw, likewise, their fortunes swept away in the common disaster, must be also included. These losses can not be estimated at present.

During our visit in Serres we had occasion to talk to Major Mazarakis, commander of the place, and thank him for his kindness to our co-religionists. Major Majarakis is imbued with the best intentions, but as he will have to rejoin his regiment sooner or later, he has appointed several committees composed of prominent citizens, without distinction of race or religion, to look after the work of assistance and public health."

We may end by remarking that the Bulgarians, like the "highwaymen" and the other associations of malefactors of the early part of the nineteenth century, committed part of their crimes under disguise. More privileged, however, than the bandits of the past, the Bulgarians had as their headquarters the very offices of the highest local authorities. This clearly appears from the following official dispatch dated July 17, 1913:

"The Austrian and Italian consuls, who arrived here, were horror-stricken before the Bulgarian crimes and at the sight of their victims shown to them in my presence and in the presence of the Archbishop. \* \* \* We visited the offices of General Voulkoff in company with the consuls, and we discovered there a large number of false beards and wigs used by the comitadjis for a disguise, also a quantity of stolen articles, including carpets and ladies' clothing. A similar discovery was made by me in the palace of the Governor at Kilkis."

MAZARAKIS,  
*Commander of the Place of Serres.*

#### THE SLAUGHTER AT DEMIR-HISSAR

The first news of the massacres committed at Demir-Hissar were made known by the following report of the commanding officer of the Sixth Division dated July 12, 1913, and published in the Paris *Temps* on July 14:

"I have the honor to report to Your Majesty that an officer of my staff, sent to Demir-Hissar, ascertained that Captain Meligof, of the Bulgarian gendarmerie, arrested, at the instance of three pro-Bulgarian persons, the Bishop, Monseigneur Constantine, the priest Papastravou, Mr. Papazacharizanou, a prominent citizen, and more than 100 Greeks who were imprisoned in the confines of the Bulgarian school. On July 7 and 8, Bulgarian soldiers and gendarmes massacred them and

requisitioned Turkish peasants to bury them within the school property outside the enclosure on the east side.

An officer of my staff caused the grave to be opened in order to verify the facts. He found in a depth of about six feet the bodies of the victims all in a pile.

Further, the Bulgarian officers and soldiers outraged several young girls and killed one named Agatha Thomas, daughter of a gardener, who resisted their attacks. The shops were either ransacked or destroyed, and the house furniture of the Greeks carried away. The lives of many were saved by the Turks who sheltered them in their homes.

The city in general presents a mournful spectacle of destruction."

A commission composed of Greek ex-members of the Chamber of Deputies at Constantinople from Macedonia, and members of the Chamber of Deputies in Athens, visited the place and forwarded to His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch at Constantinople and to the President of the Greek Chamber of Deputies, a report containing the following details:

"The line of the Bulgarian retreat from Lahana led through Demir-Hissar where 104 prominent citizens were at once arrested, including the Bishop and three priests. Eighty were immediately put to death and the remaining twenty-four, feigning death, although covered with serious bayonet thrusts, managed to escape. Two women were among the victims and two children, aged two and three years, respectively; two of the survivors, very old men, were covered with bayonet thrusts. One of them had been buried alive, but the earth being thrown lightly over him he managed to free himself sufficiently to attract attention and was saved. His condition is critical.

A very great number of women and girls suffered at the hands of the retreating troops, all stores and houses were looted, but the height of Bulgar barbarity was attained when the Bishop and three priests were killed by the very hand of Captain Anghel Dimitrieff Bostanof of the 12th Regiment, who first cut their hands and gouged their eyes out.<sup>1</sup>

All these atrocities were committed by officers and soldiers of the regular Bulgarian army belonging to the 12th and 21st Regiments. The consuls of Austria and Italy interviewed and took the depositions of the survivors. The bodies of the dead, some of which have been frightfully mutilated, are now being buried.

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<sup>1</sup>This was confirmed by the correspondent of the New York *Herald*. See issue July 17, 1913.

On the morning of July 7, toward nine o'clock, a score of Bulgarian soldiers, carrying arms with bayonets fixed and having an officer in command, went to the residence of the Bishop where the Great Logothetis of the Diocese, Mr. Thomas Papacharizakis, was visiting at the time, and knocked at the door. As the Bishop refused to open, they broke it down. An officer with a detail of six men placed the inmates under arrest and ransacked the house from garret to cellar. They took among other things forty Turkish pounds (\$200) which they found in a drawer of the Bishop's desk. After treating the prisoners with every imaginable indignity they conducted them near the Bulgarian school and forced them to kneel. The Bishop was repeatedly stabbed by bayonet thrusts, and his skull crushed by a blow. Mr. Papacharizakis died of apoplexy, due to fright, but his corpse was, nevertheless, bayoneted. The sufferings of the Bishop lasted longer. The Bulgarians kicked and insulted him, and tore the hair and beard from his head. Afterwards they stripped the bodies of their victims even to their undergarments.

Having accomplished their inhuman work, the soldiers returned to the residence of the Bishop seeking for his sister, who had escaped, and who remained in hiding on the roof of a neighboring house. The aged mother of the Bishop died from shock. The looters secured all the vestments of the church belonging to the Bishop, including two mitres, a cross set in diamonds, and a gold bound Bible. They took all secular valuables and 240 Turkish pounds (about \$1,200), belonging to the Bishop's sister.

Until noon of the following day the corpses of the victims remained exposed on the roadside. Then, with the bodies of many others, they were tied by the feet and dragged to a pit which they dug in the yard of the half-finished Bulgarian school house and there thrown in. We exhumed some of the remains and, although decomposition had set in, we could see unmistakable signs of the dreadful tortures which had been inflicted. An examination of all of the corpses was impossible, as many were far gone in decay. The body of the Bishop was thrown in head down. The faces of the martyred victims bore the traces of ineffable sufferings.

The exhumation took place amidst the sobs of the widows, the orphans and the entire community."

The competent local authorities drew up a list of the victims, among whom were the Bishop of Meleniko, Monseigneur Constantine, the Archpriest Stavros, the great Logothetis Thomas Papacharizakis, Constantine Harizano and other notables.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>For a full list of those that were killed and those that disappeared or were wounded, see the official report of the Greek staff *supra* cited.

The Paris *L'Illustration* of August 2, 1913, contains numerous photographs of Demir-Hissar and of the survivors. Also the pictures of four of the forty-two young girls that were outraged by the Bulgarians.

The following account signed by L. Leune accompanied these pictures:

"We are passing through the pretty town of Demir-Hissar built on a hill, with its picturesque bridge set on the rocks and its cypress trees. Women and children come and go, shadows of human beings with faces full of suffering and despair. A wounded man crosses the street. He has had a strange experience. Before their precipitate departure, the Bulgarians caused the drum to beat, a sign which means, in nearly every country, that some important communication is about to be announced by the authorities. The people of Demir-Hissar rushed out of their houses in masses. The Bulgarian soldiers seized the Bishop, the priests and the notables, 110 people in all, and conducted them to the courtyard of the Bulgarian school house, where an immense pit had been freshly dug. The prisoners were forced to sit around it. Poor fellows, they well understood that this great yawning hole was going to be their grave. They looked at it and smiled like martyrs. They were about to depart for the great beyond to commence that great life which time can not destroy. They will watch from above the victorious Hellenic army take possession of the land which they have so bravely defended during their short stay on earth and preserved for their mother country. It would be their work.

The Bulgarian bayonet is doing its terrible work. A thrust carries the beard of the Bishop away with the jaw. Another digs his eyes out. A third stops the beating of the heart. Fingers, hands and other limbs are torn away from the victims and thrown pell-mell. It can hack, that Bulgarian bayonet! Their work, that mass of mutilated bodies without form, the Bulgars contemplate with satisfaction and a sneer. \* \* \* How brave they are, the soldiers of King Ferdinand, these 'Japanese of Europe,' these 'Prussians of the Balkans'! \* \* \*

But the Greek army is approaching! \* \* \* The corpses remain and the murderers are fleeing. And the wounded man continues: 'After my first wound, I feigned death. When the Bulgarians fled, I got up. The Greek soldiers were there.' "

A small town can not so easily recover from such a disaster. The picture which Mr. George Bourdon, who spent three entire weeks at Demir-Hissar after the slaughter of July 7, has drawn of the place is proof of this statement.

Here is the text of his dispatch to the *Figaro* which appeared in that paper on August 4, 1913:

SALONICA, August 2.

"On my return from the general headquarters at Livanovo, which is the Olympus of a very busy staff, I visited the city of the dead. I am speaking of Demir-Hissar.

Demir-Hissar, a charming little Turkish town northwest of Serres, is built at the foot of a rocky mountain which gives it the aspect of a thicket lying against a wall. Dominated at the top by the ruins of an old fort, traversed by a river, which, at this time of the year, shows its dry bed of white pebbles; with its pretty little coffee house standing on stilts and open to the four winds; its murmuring springs; its mosques and trees as old as Mahomet; its uneven pavements; its quaint little stores where but lately sat squatting merchants from afar picking the glittering beads of their amber chaplets; it forms a fetching picture.

Turks, sitting behind their baskets filled with fruit, vainly await a customer. One seeks on the azure skies the blue line of the Bosphorus or the small wave of the sea of Marmara. I imagined myself back in Broussa where I felt to have found again that gentle and mysterious charm of the high quarters of Scutari.

Nothing, however, but silence reigns in this grief-stricken city, which resembles a motionless widow, who, having cried her eyes out, can not shed any more tears.

The rare people we meet on our way, mostly Turks, rise and salute us with deference. The aids of the King and the Greek princes are guiding me through the town. How very few people indeed we meet! The streets are deserted of the human beings that gave them life; the little neat stores are abandoned, the big houses are without their occupants, even the courtyards are without their inmates. What cataclysm then has so suddenly struck this charming town? It is neither fire, earthquake nor lava. Its houses are intact. The Bulgarians, however, have passed this way.

Swords, bayonets and knives were freely used, and Demir-Hissar realized how true was its old Turkish name: The Fortress of Iron. Turks and Greeks although unequal in number suffered alike. A large number of Greeks owe their lives to tenderhearted Turks and they own this with gratitude.

In many places, where the bodies of the victims were interred, pious hands have placed a stone, a cross or a candle to burn. There is nothing so touching as these humble signs of grief and mourning. They bear no names. It is like a human wail which quietly and discreetly finds vent, yet it rends the heart and fills the skies.

At Nigrita, at Doiran, at Strumnitza, the same atrocities.

Serres was barbarously destroyed. The three-fourths of the town was reduced to ashes. Four thousand houses, churches and mosques were systematically set on fire and burned. Forty thousand people remained without food or shelter.

So many massacres, so much looting and destruction of property, stirred the Greek hearts to exasperation and brought about that wonderful transformation that carried the armies of King Constantine forward for three weeks. The impulse was irresistible as each and every man felt in him the violent desire to conquer.

These are not the empty words frequently used to embellish the exploits of a successful athlete. They express profound realities, and the state of mind of an army, which made up in heroism what it lacked in experience. It was imbued with some of the religious and the divine. I do not think that our great revolutionary armies were inspired with a purer faith and a more violent willingness for self-sacrifice.

There was something of the sublime in this Greek army, as in our own, a spectacle rare enough to compel admiration.

I know that I will not be believed or believed but partially. I know also that there are people who would smile when they hear of heroism and of wonders. It matters not. I am but a witness who sees, hears and relates, and I am satisfied that not one of the foreign newspaper correspondents, not one of the witnesses who like myself have heard and seen, would contradict me."

#### THE MASSACRES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF DOXATO

Doxato, the center of production and tobacco industry, was the most prosperous of the Macedonian cities. Nothing but the church, which was saved by a miracle, and a few families hidden among the ruins, remain.

The newspaper correspondents, Messrs. Puaux and Magrini, visited the town the day following its destruction by the Bulgarians.

Commander Cardale, of the British Royal Navy, who was at Kavala, proceeded there at once and became also a witness of the terrible catastrophe.

We are reproducing here below their testimony, to which we will add that of Vladimir Tordoff, editor of *Outro Rossijé* of Moscow, and a few others.

#### TESTIMONY OF MR. PUAUX<sup>1</sup>

"I spent the following morning in Doxato, about ten miles south of Drama, and I had the good fortune to interview many

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<sup>1</sup>See Paris *Temps*, July 21, 1913.

impartial witnesses, including a French couple, a Mr. and Mrs. Valette, who related to me in detail the events which culminated in the burning of the town and the murder of thousands of inhabitants.

The Bulgarians, for the ostensible reason that certain sharpshooters from the village fired in the morning and on the afternoon, without, however, inflicting any injury, on a number of stragglers belonging to the retreating army of Kavala, decided to punish the inhabitants of Doxato.

On Sunday morning, July 13, they reached the town and placed a cordon about the estate of Mr. Valette, with the evident intention of arresting his interpreter, overseer and a family servant, all of whom were Greeks. Mr. Valette displayed the French flag over his doorway and protested to the commander, who was not very far away, against the arrests. The commander, after a long parley, finally accepted Mr. Valette's view, but he detailed two sentries to guard the gate of his estate. The order to attack was then given and the Bulgarian soldiers opened fire on the town with four cannon; in less than half an hour the shattered houses began to collapse, and at noon the artillery fire ceased. Then two Bulgarian cavalrymen came and took away the sentries that were left to guard the estate, and addressing the Gypsy employes who worked on Mr. Valette's estate, over one hundred in number, urged them to go to Doxato '*where the looting was good.*'

The soldiers told Mr. Valette that they had received orders to remove the Greek servants to Drama, and finding resistance useless, Mr. Valette determined to accompany his employes, ordered two of his carriages to be prepared and went with them. At Drama he met Mr. Dobreff, the Bulgarian Governor, who seemed greatly agitated, declaring that a great disaster had happened and that he must at once give aid to the victims and orders for the disposal of the dead. Mr. Dobreff proceeded at once to Doxato, together with Mr. Bachivakof, the lieutenant-governor, the *caïmacan* of Doxato and the president of the municipal council of Drama, caused the burial of some of the bodies and returned once more to Drama. During his stay he ordered the release of Mr. Valette's servants.

On Monday morning the town was still burning and the Valette estate was crowded with refugees who were afraid to leave. The Greek army arrived two days later. Mr. Valette added that during the past week the people had been very nervous, as the preceding Sunday the Bulgarians arrested the prominent citizens, and on Friday and Saturday a few skirmishes took place in the neighborhood of the town between Bulgarian and Greek volunteers.

If a few stragglers of the Bulgarian army were fired upon, that was not a reason, said Mr. Valette, why a whole city should

be burned and pillaged and more than one thousand persons, including women and children, murdered.

Mr. Valette's statement was corroborated by his daughter. They are both among the principal witnesses who will be examined by the French Commission appointed by President Poincaré to investigate, in response to a telegram of protest sent by King Constantine, when it reaches that place.

One fact is certain, that almost all the peasants were robbed before they were put to death. When about to photograph a group of these unfortunate victims,<sup>1</sup> whom Bulgarian cavalrymen took outside of the limits of the city to murder, I found empty purses lying among the corpses now in a state of decomposition. Two men, belonging to that group, managed to escape and reached the estate of Mr. Valette, crawling through the fields on their hands and knees. They told Mr. Valette that the Bulgarians compelled their victims to give up everything they had before they were put to death.

Doxato, until recently so flourishing, is now a heap of ashes. On the central square a group of three old women attracted our attention. One of them was sobbing violently. She had lost everything in the world. Her whole family was killed and her house destroyed. The other two were trying to console her. Their husbands and sons were also massacred, but they answered quite simply: 'They died for Greece.' "

#### TESTIMONY OF MR. MAGRINI

Mr. Magrini conducted his own investigation in company with the most prominent Italian citizen in the district of Kavala, Mr. George Buffetti. He described conditions as follows in a correspondence published in the Milan *Secolo*, July 26, 1913:

"On Saturday evening Bulgarian soldiers placed four field guns at a distance of 300 feet from the town, and on Sunday morning they commenced the bombardment. The inhabitants fled, some in the direction of Kavala, others following the dry bed of the river toward the mountains, carrying their money with them. A few hundred locked themselves in their homes.

The Bulgarian cavalry appeared suddenly on the scene and pursued the fugitives, while 400 Bulgarian soldiers with bayonets fixed entered the town followed by two wagonloads of cans full of petroleum. The cavalry, composed of 120 men, was divided in two sections with Birnef and Symeonof as commanding officers, respectively. They attacked and cut right and left men, women and children with their swords,

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<sup>1</sup>The photos of Mr. Puaux appeared in *L'Illustration* of August 2, 1913.

while the infantrymen robbed the victims and finished the work of destruction.

Unheard of acts of savagery are related. A number of Mussulmans, whom the Bulgarians requested to take part on the assurance that Bulgaria and Turkey had formed an alliance against Greece, also participated in the massacre which lasted until five o'clock in the afternoon.

Besides Majors Symeonof and Birnef, many other officers and officials took an active part in the massacre according to the testimony of the survivors, including Athanas Priestef, chief of police of Doxato, Jean Borof, Karakof and Vakef, a justice of the peace.

Having completed our investigation we were about to leave Doxato, when a man with distorted features, dashed towards us like a madman and asked for a piece of bread. Mr. Buffetti recognized in him a millionaire tobacco merchant, whose family had been massacred and his properties destroyed. We took him along in our carriage to Drama."

#### TESTIMONY OF COMMANDER CARDALE OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NAVY

Commander Cardale made certain statements to Mr. Stevens, special correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* (see issue of July 24, 1913), which the latter summed up as follows:

"Commander Cardale, an active officer of the British Navy, who happened to be at Kavala, and who, on hearing of the horrors committed by the Bulgarian troops at Doxato, left immediately for that place, gave me the following description of what met his eyes on reaching the scene of the massacres.

At the entrance of the town the first thing that met his gaze were bands of dogs feeding on human remains. The burnt town appeared to be deserted, and a great deal of shouting had to be resorted to before some women issued from the ruins. By the time he got to the place most of the bodies lying in the streets had been removed, but many, for want of grave-diggers, had been temporarily deposited at the entrance of the village, which explains the horrible sight above mentioned.

In one courtyard a large number of women and children were massacred. The bodies of thirty of them were still there when Commander Cardale visited the place. All the bodies had bayonet thrusts and bore marks of unspeakable mutilations. The walls were spattered with blood to a height of six feet from the ground, and he accounts for this by the narrative given him by the surviving inhabitants, who say that the victims were not put to death at once, but were slowly brought to their end by bayonet thrusts.

In one corner of the courtyard he saw huddled together the bodies of six little children. Into the courtyard of a rich Turk's house a similar flock of women and children were driven for slaughter by the Bulgarians, but before they had time to dispatch them all some broke through the cordon of soldiers placed at the entrance and ran upstairs into the house of the Turk, seeking refuge under the carpets and divans of the place.

Commander Cardale found the cushions and carpets slashed by sword cuts and the walls reeking with human blood and hacked remains. In one of the rooms there was a stove pipe. Up this pipe he saw, wedged in, a girl, 7 years of age, who had evidently tried to escape in this way, the murderers killing her by thrusts from bayonets from below. On the body of the little victim he counted four such bayonet wounds. In another room he was shown the place, still bespattered with blood, where a woman and her child had been crucified on the wall. The impressions that the bodies had left were plainly visible, as were also the holes left by the nails driven through the outstretched hands and feet of the victims.

Throughout the town he personally counted 600 bodies still left unburied, mostly of women and children. He verified the following story showing how the precepts of Christianity are understood by the so-called Christian Bulgarians:

Thirty Greeks and one Turk sought refuge in the sanctuary of a Greek church while the massacres were going on outside. A squad of Bulgarian soldiers entered the church. To the Greeks they said that if they had found them outside they would have killed them all, but, as they were Christians in a Christian church, they would spare their lives. But as to the Turk, he must die, and suiting the action to the word, they killed the Moslem on the steps of the altar.

Commander Cardale showed me several of the photographs he took with his camera, and placed at my disposal any I wished to send to England for publication."<sup>1</sup>

Commander Cardale was questioned by Mr. Andréades, Professor of Law at the University of Athens, and he declared that the correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* reproduced exactly in its principal parts the account he gave him of the atrocities. He added that the number of dead could not be accurately fixed, but that by counting the graves, the bodies and other human remains that were strewn everywhere, he estimated that no less than 600 were killed.

The commander saw bodies lying six hundred yards outside of

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<sup>1</sup>They were published in the *Illustrated London News*, Aug. 9, 1913.

the town limits. They were the bodies of those who tried to get away and were cut to pieces by the Bulgarian cavalry. He stated that the testimony of all the witnesses he had examined agreed that Bulgarian officers of the highest rank participated in the massacres.

He also confirmed the story that Gypsies and Turks were induced to take part in the work of destruction and looting of the prosperous town.

In the absence of arms, their auxiliaries, who were called in the afternoon probably to help complete the work as quickly as possible, used sticks and agricultural implements to attack their victims, whose end was thus rendered more horrible.

#### TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN TRAPPMAN

Captain Trappman, after an investigation of his own, cabled to his paper, the London *Daily Telegraph*, in part as follows:<sup>1</sup>

"The French Commission appointed to investigate will find ample evidence how the Bulgarian cavalry, followed by infantry, chased the luckless villagers for miles, the cavalry killing or wounding, whilst the infantry mutilated the corpses."

#### TESTIMONY OF VLADIMIR TORDOFF

Mr. Vladimir Tordoff made a summary in French of the correspondence in Russian he sent to his paper *L'Outro Rossijé* of Moscow. This summary, which was published in the *Liberté de Salonique* July 20, reads as follows:

"On July 2/15, toward midnight, news reached the general headquarters of the Greek army at Hadji-Beylik, of the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians at Doxato. I was returning from the battlefield of Strumnitza which I had just visited in a military automobile. Although exhausted with fatigue, I asked some of my colleagues, Mr. Puaux of the Paris *Temps* and Mr. Mavroudi of the *Débats*, to try and obtain from the military authorities a vehicle to convey us to Doxato.

Our request was immediately granted by the military authorities, and very early the following morning, after hardly three hours rest, we were able to start for Doxato.

We first crossed the bridge of Strouma on foot and on the way met a large number of dray-carts carrying wounded and

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<sup>1</sup>See *Daily Telegraph*, June 24, 1913.

supplies. An officer, speaking Russian perfectly, met us and placed at our disposal, in accordance with instructions received from headquarters, an automobile with two young, brave and very experienced chauffeurs.

One of them was a volunteer who came expressly from the United States to take part in the war.

The trip to Doxato was one of the most difficult and tiresome we had experienced. We were several times compelled to ford streams and pull the automobile, to improvise foot bridges from stones and branches of trees, etc.

It was about nine o'clock the following morning when we reached Demir-Hissar. A group of prominent citizens with a brokenhearted countenance stopped our vehicle and insisted that we go and see the bodies of the martyred victims of Bulgarian barbarity.

The bodies were lying in the courtyard of a house shaded by an immense plane-tree around which two Turkish girls with picturesque costumes were playing. We had advanced but a few steps when a nauseating odor compelled us to stop our nostrils. A large number of unburied corpses were already in a decomposed state. A group of women standing nearby were wringing their hands and crying piteously. We were profoundly moved at this spectacle."

Mr. Tordoff then gives his impressions about the destroyed city of Serres, and certain villages of that district which have had the same fate, also about Zlakovo where he met a woman whose daughters were ravished and her husband killed by the very Bulgarian soldiers who accepted their hospitality. Mr. Tordoff continues his narrative as follows:

"At Drama we found the population celebrating with great enthusiasm the arrival of the Hellenic troops which entered the town the day before amidst general relief.

About a dozen miles from Drama we faced the ruins of Doxato. This prosperous town was destroyed by the Bulgarians on the pretext that Greek sharpshooters killed near that place a number of Bulgarian soldiers who were retreating from Kavala.

The Bulgarians bombarded Doxato for three hours with the aid of four cannon placed on commanding heights, and they set different sections of the town on fire. Not being satisfied with this, they invited the gypsies to participate in the looting and massacre of the Greeks. The slaughter of the people by the Bulgarians was frightful. Hundreds of innocent citizens were slain. The place was everywhere looted. We saw on the pave-

ments, among the ruins of the houses and shops, safes that were forced open, broken sewing-machines, etc., etc. Women were wringing their hands and crying in despair. I saw with my own eyes children carrying bayonet wounds. I met an old woman who had lost everything. She was crying piteously for her five children, of the fate of whom she was ignorant. A Greek priest was pierced through and through by a bayonet thrust near the church door. We saw at different places piles of corpses exposed to the sun, and others, half buried, whose heads, arms or legs were sticking out of the soil.

One-half of the population of Doxato disappeared without leaving any traces.

This heartrending spectacle impressed me painfully. During the entire trip from Hadji-Beylik to Doxato, I felt a terrible shame that such savagery were committed by Slavs."

#### KAVALA AND DRAMA

The people of Kavala and Drama have been so terribly oppressed during the past few months, that it will be difficult to give an accurate account in a few words.<sup>1</sup> These cities were at least saved from massacre and destruction.

Kavala owes its escape to a very ingenious stratagem of Admiral Coundouriotis.<sup>2</sup> The Bulgarians believing that they were to be surrounded, abandoned the city, taking with them as hostages Bishop Athanase and his secretary, two doctors, the headmaster of the Greek school, the dragoman of the Greek consulate, the honorary dragoman of the French consulate and the most prominent Greek citizens of the town.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>For complete details see a long article by Gaston Deschamps, an eyewitness, which was published in the Paris *Temps* July 22, 1913. Also an article by Mr. Magrini in the Milan *Secolo* of July 18, which contains also an interview with Mr. Protopapas, the mayor of Kavala. Concerning Drama, read the correspondence of Mr. Puaux in the Paris *Temps* July 21, 1913, and that of Mr. Mavroudi in the *Journal des Débats*, July 24, 1913.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Deschamps who was on the island of Thasos opposite Kavala at the time, describes this stratagem in all its details and characterizes it as "one which Themistocles, admiral of the Athenians, would have approved." See article above cited.

<sup>3</sup>Here is the list:

1. The Bishop of Kavala. 2. P. Lekos, dragoman of the Greek consulate. 3. P. Candiots, Hellenic subject and manager of the Bank of Athens. 4. A. Charissiadis, merchant. 5. Dr. Poulidis. 6. M. Kolokythas, merchant and honorary dragoman of the French consulate. 7. Dr. Conoplidis. 8. Th. Vratzouhas, agent of the firm of Moriatis & Co., of Manchester. 9. Boulgaridis, tobacco merchant, Hellenic subject. 10. C. Ioannou, tobacco merchant, Hellenic subject. 11. A. Alexopoulos, tobacco merchant, Hellenic subject. 12. A. Zorbas, manager of the newspaper *Simaia*. 13. A. Natzos,

The same tactics were followed at Pravi, a small town northwest of Kavala,<sup>1</sup> at Chari-Chaban and other places.

The prosperous village of Alistrati was saved, thanks to the timely arrival of the Greek army which extinguished the conflagration the Bulgarians had started. Official Greek sources also attribute the saving of Drama to the rapid march of the 7th Division. According to Mr. Puaux, however, "Drama suffered little by comparison, thanks to the coolness and the humanity shown by the two principal Bulgarian functionaries, Colonel Guezof and Prefect Dobref."<sup>2</sup>

We bow before the testimony of Mr. Puaux, and, extending our congratulations to these two Bulgarian officials, we can not help remarking that the efficacy of their intervention is an additional proof of the heavy responsibility that weighs upon all of their colleagues throughout the rest of Macedonia.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE ATTACKS ON THE CLERGY AND TEACHERS

#### THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOLS AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

There are certain crimes among the many horrible ones that have been committed which the universities of Athens feel very keenly.

Your attention was drawn to the fiendish attacks made against the high Macedonian prelates, and the large number of priests that fell victims to their faith and fidelity to duty. The acts of violence to which so many professors and teachers were subjected have, no doubt, aroused your indignation.

From the correspondence of Mr. George Bourdon in the Paris

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<sup>1</sup>Here are the names of the citizens of Pravi carried off by the Bulgarians:

Rev. Economou Papanicolaou, C. Emmanuelides, D. Emmanuelides, K. Likides, P. Likides, George Karageorge, E. Hadjistergiou, C. Hadjistergiou, C. Fanitsas, N. Tascos, S. Joannis, D. Ragas, D. Lambros and Christ Mousteniotis.

<sup>2</sup>See Paris *Temps*, July 21, 1913.

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Hellenic subject, employed by the Bank of Athens. 14. Th. Pantazis, commission merchant. 15. M. Pappadopoulos, secretary to the Archbishop. 16. I. Yattos. 17. Th. Valimidis. 18. P. Zoulas. 19. D. Tamintzikis. 20. S. Phessas. 21. C. Phessas. 22. A. Vassiliadis. 23. D. Economou. 24. G. Antoniadis, 25. A. Papadopoulos. 26. J. Zorbas, and 27. C. Striminghis.

The Hellenic government immediately communicated this list to the Greek legations abroad with the instruction to protest against this violation of the rules of international law, and to demand protection for the lives of the Hellenic subjects led away by the Bulgarians.

*Figaro*, which we quote below, you may form an idea of the horrible death which Professor Papapavlos, D.L., suffered. He was one of the most distinguished Hellenists, a brilliant scholar, and a graduate of the universities of Athens and Leipzig. At the time of his death he was the headmaster of the gymnasium at Serres.

Here is what Mr. Bourdon wrote on July 24, 1913:

"The bodies of some of the hostages taken by the Bulgarians from Serres will be found in a corn field. We searched for them for a long time in vain. Finally one of us exclaimed: 'We are getting near.'

A stench of putrefaction, a strong, penetrating, persistent and sickening smell of decaying flesh, an experience of which I had in Casablanca, struck our olfactory nerves. We first discovered one corpse, then a second, then a third—seven in all. The first was lying about two hundred yards away from the second, and three hundred yards approximately separated the latter from the other four.

The last body we found on a slope not far from the others. The first poor fellow must have stumbled as he lost his shoe and fell three yards forward. Another must have been struck on the back. He was lying face down and his whole body was half stuck in the muddy field. A third had his skull crushed with a gun, and the blow must have been so violent that it broke the butt of the gun and threw it a few feet away. We found the barrel still loaded with five cartridges in a thicket not very far away, and the butt, which was covered with coagulated blood and hairs, fitted exactly.

Near the corpse of another victim we found a second broken butt. No doubt the murderer must have taken the barrel of the gun with him. A fifth was lying on his back, his twisted hands and fingers stuck in the soil. His face was black, his mouth wide open and he seemed to be still yelling from fright. It reminded me of those two petrified corpses one sees at Pompeii, with twisted limbs and open mouths, looking, after so many centuries, as if they have not ceased to scream under the molten lava.

Conscious of the sensibilities of my readers, I shall not protract the description of this horrible spectacle.

We armed ourselves with a stern will power, stopped our nostrils and with horror-stricken eyes proceeded to the completion of the investigation we had undertaken, which we considered necessary.

We took photographs of these frightful remains which we are going to publish.<sup>1</sup> One thing is certain, that these notables,

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<sup>1</sup>They were published in *L'Illustration*, August 2, 1913.

like many others, were the victims of the regular army and not of the comitadjis although the Bulgarian authorities deny this. They were taken prisoners at Serres and forcibly carried off by the retreating army.

The unfortunate victims before our eyes were well dressed and had every appearance of gentlemen. That they were from Serres, we have no doubt, as three of the bodies were recognized and identified."

One of the victims was Professor Papapavlos, and the other two Dr. Cryssafis, the best doctor in Serres, and Mr. Stamoulis, the manager of the Orient Bank.

An adequate idea of what the Greek Church and the teachers had to suffer in Macedonia and Thrace may be gained by consulting the official reports of the Bishops which were published in the *Ecclesiastiki Alitheia*, the official organ of the ecumenical patriarchate.

The publication of these reports commenced on July 28, 1913,<sup>1</sup> and is far from being completed. No doubt they will be translated into French, and the civilized world will then be able to learn how, in this twentieth century, such persecutions, recalling the darkest times of the religious wars, were conceived and carried into execution.

We shall mention only the case of Eurydice Papa-Apostolou, a teacher at Pravi, who lost her reason after she was assaulted by Bulgarian soldiers.<sup>2</sup>

We may also mention the well known fact that in Macedonia and Thrace the Greek schools were turned into hospitals, barracks and stables, so that, in the guise of military necessity, Greek instruction was everywhere interrupted. In this way the Bulgarians expected to assimilate the Greek population of Macedonia and Thrace to that of Eastern Roumelia, which, in spite of the treaty of Berlin and other supplementary treaties, was deprived of its churches and schools and forced to patronize the Bulgarian.

The literary world will also be shocked at the numerous acts of vandalism against the ancient relics.

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<sup>1</sup>See "Ecclesiastiki Alitheia" Nos. 23 and 27.

<sup>2</sup>Read the report of the Bishop of Elefteroupolis published in the aforesaid paper June 28. This poor girl is now an inmate of the Dafni lunatic asylum, near Athens.

The reports of the Bishops contain ample proof of this statement.<sup>1</sup> Not only several objects of ancient art were stolen, but a number of inscriptions disappeared or were destroyed.

The rage shown by the Bulgarians against the inscriptions was manifest everywhere, and is partly explained by their fear that the Greek inscriptions constituted historical records.

It appears from a letter of Dr. Economou, ephor of antiquities in Macedonia, addressed on June 12, 1913, to his colleague, Professor S. Lambros, that the Bulgarians of Ostrovon destroyed an inscription because it contained the name Alexander, which they took for that of Alexander the Great.

These acts of vandalism, or rather these *bulgarisms*, are nothing in comparison to the profanation at Silyvria by the Bulgarian officer Kaptsef, of the tomb believed to be that of Emperor Basil, the slayer of Bulgarians.

In the conflagration of Serres many relics belonging to the medieval and ancient periods perished, including the magnificent Cathedral, a jewel of byzantine architecture, with its priceless contents; the collection of the antiquities preserved in the Metropolis and in the hospital; the collection of the manuscripts of the diocese and those of the *gymnasium*, together with twenty churches, many of which were old, or contained ancient inscriptions, icones or sculptures.<sup>2</sup>

## CHAPTER VIII

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

In the course of this lengthy statement, we had several times occasion to cite the names of the Bulgarian officers and officials who were not only the instigators of the massacres, the looting and the burning of the cities, but the leaders as well.

It is, therefore, a question of official crimes, and any attempt to throw the responsibility on the comitadjis will be in vain. This truth was established by the actual facts, and strongly proclaimed

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<sup>1</sup>See, among the many other reports, those of the Bishops of Heraclée, Ganos and Derkos.

<sup>2</sup>Full information regarding the inscriptions and other medieval and ancient objects of art, until recently preserved in the Cathedral of Serres, will be found in the splendid works of Prof. Papageorgiou (*Byzantinische Zeitschrift*, 1894) and of Messrs. Pedrizet and Chesnay (*Monuments de l'Academie des Inscriptions*, Paris, 1904).

and confirmed by the consular reports and the statements of the foreign consuls at Salonica and by Commander Cardale of the British Royal Navy.

The following editorial appeared in the Paris *Temps*, which is always so well informed, on August 4, 1913:<sup>1</sup>

"The moral condition of Bulgaria was aggravated by the investigation made by the counselor of the French Legation at Athens, Mr. du Halgouët, whose worth and character are unanimously recognized and respected. This investigation confirms and defines the accusations made by King Constantine."

Still more convincing are the official documents found in the palace of the Bulgarian Governor at Serres on July 16, 1913. We give the principal ones:

(a) Order No. 8265, dated June 21, by which the Governor of Serres, Voulkof, ordered the prefect of Drama to arrest and commit to some prison in Bulgaria the Greek Bishop of that town and the foremost citizens, on the pretext that they were inflaming the population.

(b) Order No. 8391, bearing date June 21, addressed to the Governor of Serres, Voulkof, by the Chief-of-Staff, Moustakof, contained a list of prominent citizens who were to be imprisoned by the latter.

(c) Document No. 8390, dated June 21, addressed by Voulkof, Governor of Serres, to the prefect of Strumnitz, ordered the imprisonment of the Greek Bishop of that town in a Bulgarian monastery.

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<sup>1</sup>The Paris *Temps* of July 30 already contained the following dispatch from Salonica:

"Mr. du Halgouët, first secretary of the French legation in Athens and Colonel Lepidi, who were ordered by the French government to make an investigation on the reported massacre and looting by the Bulgarians, visited Serres, Doxato and Demir-Hissar, and made a thorough examination.

The result, which they incorporated in an official report, agrees in every respect with the result of the investigation previously made by the consuls-general of Austria and Italy at Salonica. Mr. du Halgouët asserts that Serres and Doxato were destroyed in the same manner and after a settled plan, not by the comitadjis, but by the regular Bulgarian army which acted in accordance with special orders received from higher sources.

The local civil officials and the chiefs of the Bulgarian police and gendarmerie helped the army in its work of destruction.

Mr. du Halgouët declared that several Bulgarian officers were among the slayers.

This dispatch was fully confirmed by a long correspondence by Gaston Deschamps, published in *Le Temps*, August 7, 1913.

(d) *Dispatch No. 8256, dated June 21, addressed by the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Mr. Danef, to the military governor of Serres, counselled the latter to have the Bishop and the notables tried by a court martial before sending them to prison, in order to justify their arrest.*

(e) Lastly, dispatch No. 8263 from the military governor of Serres to the Bulgarian Commander-in-Chief advising him of the arrest of the Bishops of Doiran and Kavala.

### CONCLUSION

SIR AND VERY HONORABLE COLLEAGUE:

This statement, notwithstanding our efforts to abridge it, notwithstanding the many atrocities we have omitted, is much longer than intended. No doubt you must have observed, if you have had the patience to read it through, that not one single fact could be denied, and that it is based on unimpeachable testimony. But even glancing through it, you must have been convinced that, when you were asked by cable three weeks ago to stigmatize these misdeeds without precedent in the history of modern warfare, in the name of righteousness and Christian morality, we did not exaggerate.

We expressed the hope that European public opinion would prevent the repetition of the Macedonian atrocities in that part of Thrace which was still occupied by the Bulgarians and which is inhabited, almost entirely, by Greeks and Turks.

Unfortunately, the echo of indignation which the news from Macedonia created throughout the civilized world failed to reach the ears of the governments at Sofia; so that Dedé-Agatch, Macri, Gioumouldjina, Xanthy and other localities in Thrace were made the scenes of horrors no less atrocious than those committed in Macedonia.

We thought, however, that this sad deception should not prevent us from sending you the present report.

Bulgaria owes its independence in a great measure to the massacres of Batak, to the "Bulgarian Atrocities" so eloquently denounced by the late Gladstone. At a moment when it is being debated, notwithstanding the outcome of war, whether many hundred thousand Greeks are to be left under Bulgarian rule, it appears to us necessary that the civilized world, so justly shocked by the atrocities of

which the Bulgars were the victims in 1876, should form a more accurate idea of the crimes committed by them in 1913.<sup>1</sup>

Please accept, Dear Sir and Colleague, the assurance of my highest consideration.

THEODORE ZAÏMIS,  
*Rector of the Universities of Athens.*

Athens, August 31, 1913.

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<sup>1</sup>According to an article by J. W. Ozanne, which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century*, one of the largest English Reviews, on August 1, 1913, "the Bulgarian attack against the districts occupied by the Greeks and the Servians was accompanied by scenes of unheard of savagery, before which the atrocities of Botak, which caused a shiver of horror to run throughout the civilized world, pale into insignificance. \* \* \* The subjects of King Ferdinand have established a record."

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